MARY J BLIGE TALKS DIVA TENDENCIES
THE WORD {page 08

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BIKARD LARMA/METRO

Mummers. New plans

▶ The outfits will remain as outlandish as they were last year — or any year.

Old tradition seeks family infusion

Mummers Day Parade organizers are trying to broaden the tradition's appeal as its dancers and musicians get ready for the 117th annual march up South Broad Street. New ways to give better access, from more seating on the parade route to more camera angles for television viewers at home, will be part of a revamped festival this New Year's Day, leaders announced yesterday at City Hall. {page 02}

City traffic court chief judge gets the boot

◗ Pa. Supreme Court justice demotes jurist amid probe of alleged ticket-fixing ◗ Judge Michael Sullivan will remain on bench as FBI investigation continues {page 02}

News

All eyes on N. Korea leadership

◗ Kim Jong-un hasn't had much time to build a following
◗ Future could hold unrest ... or reintegration {page 06}

Jeremy Renner, action hero {page 12}

Rollins, Phils make it official

Shortstop signs new deal, spurns Brewers to stay {page 17}

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Mummers try new ways to attract fans

The Mummers Parade, a Philadelphia tradition, will add a few fan-friendly features on New Year's Day and include some changes due to the construction around City Hall, officials announced yesterday.

The 112th Mummers Parade will have a new judging location on JFK Boulevard between 15th and 16th streets as a result of construction at Dilworth Plaza outside City Hall. Officials said the new location will allow for more seating, better views and will include a large screen TV airing the live broadcast.

"We want to invite families, not only from Philadelphia, but all around the country and all around the world," said George Badey III, a representative of the Mummers. "It's set up for families. It's all about families."

Organizers will also bring back the Pine Street performance area and bleachers, and have portable restrooms along the parade route.

The parade will start at the intersection of Broad Street and Washington Avenue at 9:45 a.m.

SOLOMON D. LEACH/METRO

▶ Mummers at City Hall

METRO/SDL

Good day, bad day

Good day
An unidentified female bettor struck it $1 million rich Sunday on a $20 wager placed during a hand of Three Card Poker 6 Card Bonus at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City, the casino company announced yesterday. She hit the elusive royal flush.

Bad day
A 14-year-old Yeadon teenager is allegedly behind six of 16 recent house burglaries in the Drexel Hill section of Upper Darby, according to reports yesterday. He was allegedly found with an Xbox in his backpack. About $25,000 in valuables and jewelry have been stolen in the spree.

Judge dropped as Traffic Court chief

- Pa. Supreme Court chief justice personally demotes jurist amid FBI inquest
- State's investigation was launched following federal raids in September

The administrative judge of Philadelphia Traffic Court has been removed due to a federal investigation into alleged "institutionalized" ticket-fixing, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court announced.

Traffic Court Judge Michael Sullivan will be replaced by Common Pleas Court Judge Gary Glazer, but Sullivan will remain on the bench. Chief Justice Ron Castille said Sullivan and others were part of a long-standing practice fueled by connected politicians.

"The practice of accepting ex parte requests for favorable treatment exposes the court to the enormous risk of money changing hands in return for such favors and deprives the city and state of fines that traffic violations impose," Castille said at a news conference.

The Supreme Court launched an independent investigation in September following raids by the FBI of Traffic Court chambers and offices, businesses and homes tied to Sullivan and William Hird, former director of courtroom operations. Federal agents also searched the home of former Administrative Judge Fortunato Perri Sr.

Sullivan's attorney, Henry Hockheimer, denied his client did anything wrong, and expressed surprise at the demotion, according to KYW Newsradio.

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ The court on Spring Garden Street has been under investigation since September.

Favorable treatment ingrained

The internal investigation found that many aspects of the court's operations were sound, but that external requests for favorable treatment of defendants was an ingrained practice. Ticket-fixing is prohibited by the state judicial code of conduct.

"Citizens are entitled to a Traffic Court where cases are adjudicated fairly based on evidence presented in open court rather than by judges in the back room and where everyone has the same opportunity for a fair hearing, not just the politically connected," Castille said in a statement.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
sleach@metro.us

▶ Stay clear of trains.

Teen killed by train

WARMINSTER. A teenager has been struck and killed by a train on SEPTA's Warminster line, officials said.

The incident occurred around 2:30 p.m. on the northbound track just south of the Pennsylvania Turnpike overhead bridge, according to SEPTA spokeswoman Jerria Williams. According to witnesses, the male, whose name has not been released, was walking along the tracks and may have been listening to headphones. METRO/SDL

Gunman shot to death

PENNSYLVANIA. The gunman who allegedly shot two police officers, killing one, in the southwestern part of the state during a late Sunday traffic stop was shot to death yesterday morning after a 10-hour manhunt, state police said.

Eli Franklin Myers was killed near his home in Washington County. METRO

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Captives talk on first day of 'dungeon' case

Gruesome photos showed alleged abuse, prosecutors say Alleged victim at times described group as family, though one he couldn't leave

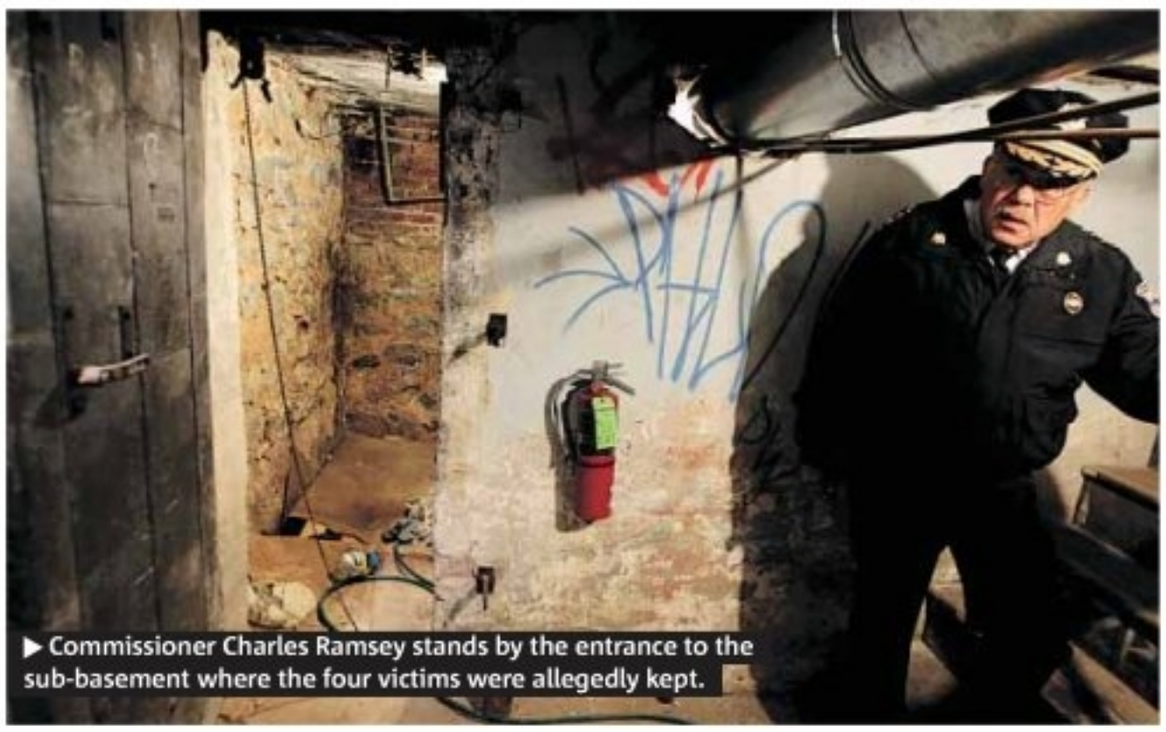
More details emerged during hours of graphic testimony at a preliminary hearing for the four Tacony dungeon suspects accused of holding people captive for their social security checks in a case that crosses at least three states and spans about 10 years.

A woman rushed from the courtroom in tears as prosecutors showed photos of victim Tamara Breeden's legs. Her battered extremities were bruised like rotten fruit. Her head was worse.

Breeden and Herbert Knowles, Derwin McLemire, Beatrice Weston and Edwin Sanabria were found imprisoned in a sub-basement Oct. 15.

Linda Weston was also slapped with more charges, including promoting prostitution, bolstered by testimony of Sanabria, a member of Weston's group of transients since 2001. While he was locked in a Texas attic, he told the court, men would regularly come over to have sex with Beatrice and Breeden.

While the defense tried to paint the victims as willing participants who could have escaped at any time, the victims revealed a more complicated picture. Sanabria at times referred to the group as his family, but said he could never get away. "She wouldn't let me," he repeated.



▶ Commissioner Charles Ramsey stands by the entrance to the sub-basement where the four victims were allegedly kept.

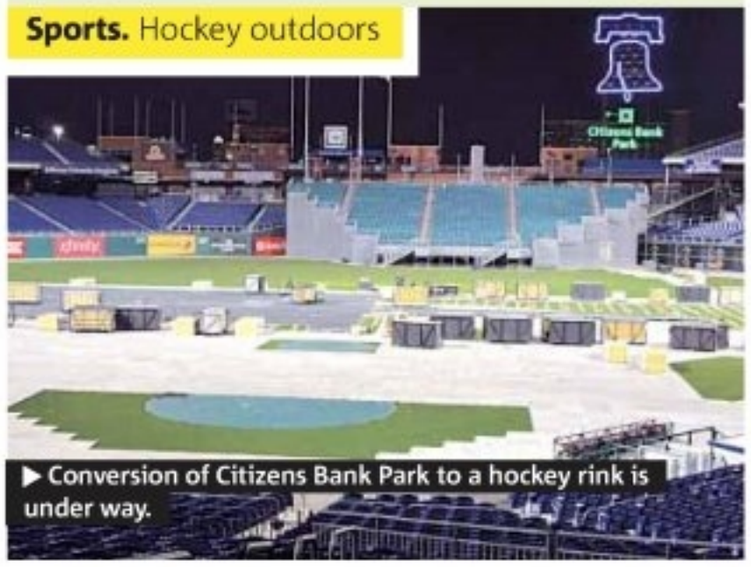
ALEX WIGGLESWORTH
awigglesworth@metro.us

Gruesome details

John Murphy, a responding officer, discussed bringing the victims up from their alleged prison.

- "They came out of the sub-basement gingerly," Murphy said. "They looked very scared, like they didn't know what was going on."
- **"They were walking real slow and squinting like they hadn't seen light in a while."** MURPHY
- "One man was so thin, he was wearing a crewneck T-shirt and the neck was hanging down his shoulders."

REMARD LARMA/METRO



Sports. Hockey outdoors

▶ Conversion of Citizens Bank Park to a hockey rink is under way.

Winter Classic glimpse

The National Hockey League's annual outdoor game will be played Jan. 2 between the Flyers and Rangers.

Mumia move off death row upsets widow

PHILADELPHIA. Mumia Abu-Jamal, no longer on death row of Pennsylvania's Department of Corrections, has been moved to a medium-security state prison north of Reading, according to state inmate records.

The convicted murderer of city Officer Daniel Faulkner was transferred to SCI Mahanoy, a prison in Frankville.

The transfer has left Faulkner's widow concerned, according to a KYW Newsradio report.

"Maureen Faulkner was of course concerned when she first heard the news, and I told her we were going to find out exactly how the defendant was classified, where the inmate is, what the restrictions are," city DA Seth Williams told KYW yesterday. The report indicated Abu-Jamal isn't getting special treatment at Mahanoy. METRO/BXM

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The feed ...

Per the usual, people have taken to Twitter following the death of North Korea leader Kim Jong-il. We've rounded up the very best tweets about the "dear leader."

▶ **@ElyseeFranglais** President N #Sarkozy express deep sadness on hearing that with death of Jong he is now officially shortest leader in world

▶ **@Prince___Harry** Kim Jong il is dead but the citizens of North Korea have been told he's entered a sleeping competition.

▶ **@MarcMaietta** North Korea...look out for a new Kim in town when "Kourtney and Kim Take Pyongyang"! #kimjongil #kardashians

▶ **@david_j_roth** A tearful newscaster telling a nation without electricity that its dictator died of fatigue after a long train ride is just exactly right.

▶ **@mikepostalakis** Wow. Bin Laden. Gaddafi. Now Kim Jong? I'd tread carefully, Jay Leno.

▶ **@macleanbrendan** We did it Twitter. We made every Kim Jong-Il joke there was to make. I'm sure North Korea will appreciate it once they get the Internet.

Instability reigns over North Korea

With death of powerful leader, questions loom for future of communist dynasty Will the young son of Kim Jong-il be able to maintain control?

▶ North Koreans cry en masse in apparent mourning for the death of Kim Jong-Il in this still grabbed from state media footage. Then again, if they don't cry convincingly enough, citizens of the Peoples Republic of North Korea could risk indefinite detention in jail or forced labor camps that tend to end in death — not only for themselves but also for their entire extended family.

In the short term, international worries over North Korea following the death of Kim Jong-il center on a potential domestic leadership struggle that could heighten the risk of renewed conflict on the peninsula.

In the much longer run, however, the death could also usher in a quite different challenge: the hugely expensive task of reunifying Korea and reintegrating the world's most isolated state into the global economy.

The coming days could be full of distinctly mixed signals. Yesterday morning, South Korean media reported the North had test-fired a short-range missile in what looked to be an early example of the sort of saber-rattling that many analysts fear.

All eyes will be on heir apparent Kim Jong-un to try to gauge whether he can truly take his father's place as undisputed national leader and commander of a military with some 5 million men under arms and perhaps up to eight nuclear warheads.

Many doubt that he can.

"There is a real risk of internal instability, particularly within the elite," said Michael Denison, research director at London-based risk consultancy Control Risks. "It's not clear at the moment that Kim Jong-un will be able to clearly entrench his control."

The young man, about 28 years old, was only presented as his father's successor last year, leaving him little time to build support. **REUTERS**

Obama's quandary

WASHINGTON. Kim Jong-il's death could dim hopes for fresh nuclear disarmament talks with the United States and its key Asian allies as an untested and largely unknown heir takes charge of one of the world's most feared atomic renegade states. **REUTERS**

Did you know?

Six things you probably did not know about Kim Jong-il:

1. Like other men with a Napoleon complex, he wore high heels.
2. For a leader of a country plagued by starvation, Kim Jong-il was an extremely discriminating gourmand.
3. He was a skilled equestrian. Once he even appeared in a TV movie on one of his white horses.
4. Once he needed painkillers for an injury. For one month, his administrative staff members were injected with the same painkiller as Dear Leader every day, according to his Japanese chef. Dear Leader was afraid he'd get addicted to painkillers and didn't want to be the only one.
5. He loved movies. The dictator reportedly owned over 20,000 videos. James Bond was a particular favorite (though presumably he didn't much like "Die Another Day," where 007 is tortured in North Korea).
6. He was a basketball fan, and particularly loved Michael Jordan. During a period of appeasement, the United States presented him with the basketball star's autograph.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Timeline of rule

- **July 1994:** Kim Il-sung dies of heart attack at age 82, bringing to de-facto power his son Kim Jong-il, in the first communist dynastic succession.
- **October 1994:** Clinton administration signs an agreement with North Korea to freeze its nuclear program in exchange for aid.
- **January 2002:** In State of the Union address, Bush brands North Korea, Iran and Iraq an "axis of evil."
- **December 2002:** North Korea says it plans to restart Yongbyon reactor. By the end of the month, it has disabled the IAEA surveillance devices there and expelled the agency's inspectors.
- **January 2003:** North Korea quits the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
- **October 2006:** North Korea conducts nuclear test.
- **February 2007:** North Korea agrees to start shutting its reactor and allow U.N. nuclear inspectors back in exchange for aid.
- **August 2008:** Kim is thought to have suffered a stroke that keeps him out of the public eye for months.
- **August 2008:** Pyongyang says it will reverse disablement of Yongbyon facilities.
- **April 2009:** North Korea launches a multistage rocket.
- **March 2010:** A South Korean navy corvette sinks, killing 46 sailors aboard. South Korea announces in May that an investigation showed the North had torpedoed the craft.
- **September 2010:** Kim anoints his youngest son Kim Jong-un as his successor.

Gingrich fading in Iowa, nationally

Newt's time as GOP front-runner could soon be done
Drops to third in Iowa Lead gone in national poll

Presidential nominee Newt Gingrich's status as Republican front-runner is fading after weeks of attack ads from rivals and intense media exposure of his political history and personality.

A Public Policy Polling survey of likely Republican -caucus attendees in the key state of Iowa released yesterday showed the former House speaker dropping to third place there from first in the space of a week.

His lead also has evaporated in national poll.

"Newt Gingrich's campaign is rapidly imploding and Gingrich has now seen a big drop in his Iowa standing two weeks in a row," Public Policy Polling, which is affiliated with the Democratic Party, said in a statement.

Gingrich earned just 14 percent in the latest Iowa poll compared to 22 percent a week ago and 27 percent two weeks ago.

Congressman Ron Paul took over the lead with 23 percent, a five point increase in the past weeks. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Gingrich's main national rival, was second with 20 percent.

The survey of almost 600 people, taken Dec. 16-18, had a 4 percentage point margin of error.

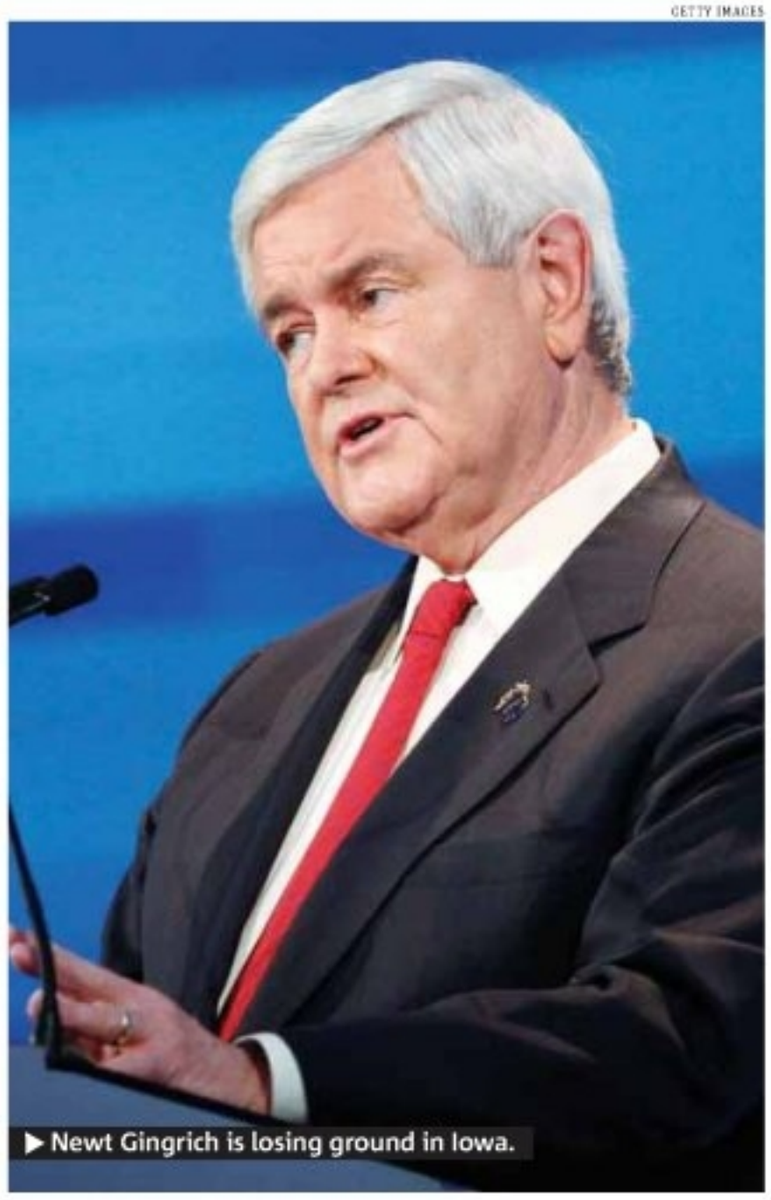
REUTERS

Tax break dead?

House Speaker John Boehner yesterday effectively killed a short-term tax break and called on lawmakers to negotiate a full year payroll tax cut extension for 160 million U.S. workers.

"The idea that tax policy can be done two months at a time is the kind of activity we see here in Washington that will put the economy off its track," he said. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Newt Gingrich is losing ground in Iowa.

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MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR
2011

Apple co-founder Steve Jobs received two votes for every one for the Occupy movement yesterday, as voting in Metro's Man and Woman of the Year event continues. The two nominees are almost neck and neck — the Occupy movement retains a lead, but it is a fraction of what it was before the weekend.

To vote: Send your pick to mwoty@metro.us. The choices are Steve Jobs, the Occupy movement, or Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Voting ends at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 22.

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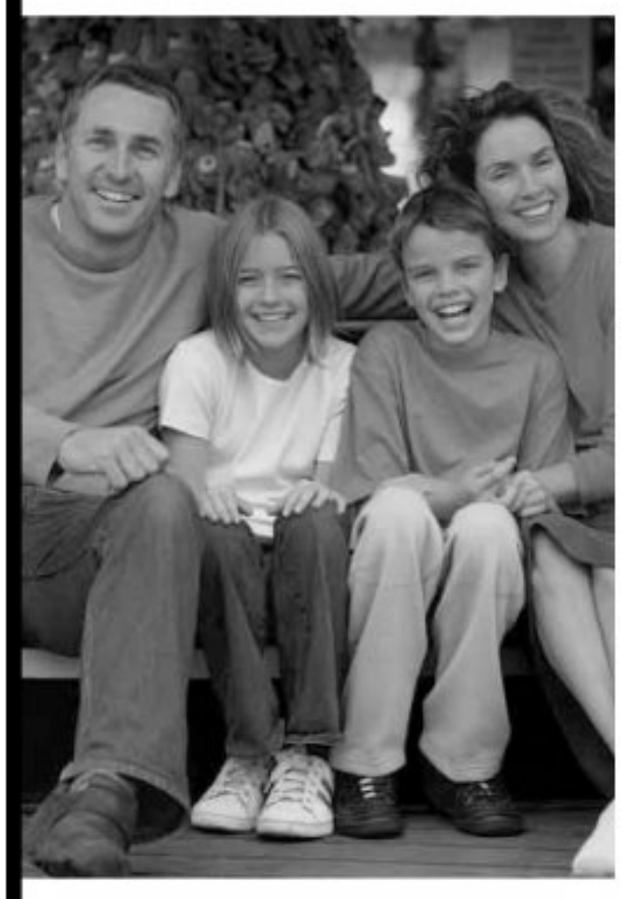

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Piers Morgan is going by the rule of threes, Howard Stern wants some news, Joan Rivers is adhering to tradition and Bette Midler is in pain.

▶ @piersmorgan
Not a great year for tyrants... BinLaden, Gadhafi, now Kim Jong-il

▶ @HowardStern
Can't find a newspaper.

▶ @Joan_Rivers
The recipe for Christmas goose is the same as Hanukkah goose. The difference is we let the housekeeper cook it.

▶ @BetteMidler
Yes many things are horrible, but how about ingrown toenails? Mommmeeeeee!!!!!!

These soulful singers on their diva-like behavior

"I diva out about my music. I have to be, baby. It's what I do. It's what I do. It's my life. It's my sanity." CHAKA KHAN

It was a diva-licious red carpet Sunday night at New York City's Hammerstein Ballroom in honor of "VH1 Divas Celebrates Soul," where the music channel paid homage to the cities that inspire today's soulful divas. But luckily, the star-studded performers who rocked the red carpet weren't such prima donnas that they wouldn't stop and chat with Metro to dish about their most diva-like behavior.

— With additional reporting by Jeryl Brunner

"What do I diva out most about? When I'm hungry or cold. When I'm hungry, I'm cranky. I've gotta eat. And when I'm cold, I'm not comfortable." MARY J. BLIGE

"I'm a diva with my food. Being a Weight Watchers girl, I only get so many points, so you don't want to waste them. So I [become a real] diva about my food." JENNIFER HUDSON

"VH1 Divas Celebrates Soul" premiered yesterday on VH1. But don't worry, you can catch the show in reruns all week.

"My nails! [Giggles] I'm very excited about seeing all these divas. I don't put myself in that class. But if someone says I'm a diva, then I guess I am." DOLLY PARTON

"I can't stand to have my feet hurt. I can't bear it. It changes my whole personality. I normally carry flip-flops. I went to the Grammy's in flip flops one year because my shoes hurt so bad." JILL SCOTT

"I like to think I'm a pretty humble. My [contract] rider is pretty simple. It's just water and a bottle of coconut Ciroc. It mellows me out a little bit before the show. But if I don't get it, I don't cause a fit. I don't complain. I didn't get it tonight, and I'm happy." TRAVIE MCCOY

His 50 Cents on Chaka Khan

50 Cent didn't have much to say about being a diva, but he did want to talk about his love for date **Chaka Khan.** "Chaka Khan — there are so many things," he told us. "Let me sit here to explain this to you to make sure you get this. [It's] the tone of her voice, the choices she has made in music, [the people she] influenced — you know how many babies were made to Chaka Khan?"

Talking points

No Bieber, there isn't a Santa Claus

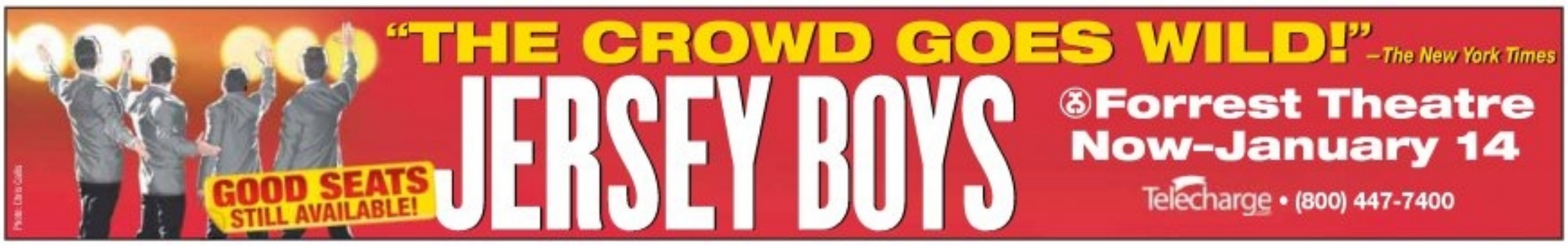
Justin Bieber never believed in Santa Claus. "My mom always told me there wasn't a Santa," the pop star tells AOL Music. "This was her logic: She thought if I grew up knowing about Santa then finding out he wasn't real, that it would be like she was lying to me. And then when she told me about God, I maybe wouldn't believe her." Luckily, it was a tidbit that Bieber was good enough to keep to himself. "I didn't tell my friends or ruin it for anyone," he says. "I was a good kid."

Lohan sells out again and again

For the first time in a long while, **Lindsay Lohan** has a bona fide hit on her hands. Retailers are reportedly having trouble keeping copies of her issue of Playboy in stock, according to TMZ. There also has been a surge of online subscribers to the magazine's website since the release of the troubled actress's naked pictorial.

Ellen moves in to Pitt's home

Brad Pitt didn't have to look far to find a buyer for his Malibu mansion: **Ellen DeGeneres** and **Portia de Rossi** snatched up the $12 million property with private beach access, according to Us Weekly. "It was a quick transaction and Brad's stuff is already out," a source says. "[They] would like to start using the house immediately."



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Celebs counting down to Christmas

1. Luke Pritchard of The Kooks performed on stage at the O2 Academy on Sunday in Leeds, U.K.

2. Justin Bieber and Stevie Wonder performed onstage at Stevie Wonder's 16th annual House Full of Toys benefit concert held at Nokia Theatre on Saturday in Los Angeles.

3. Chris Martin of Coldplay performed in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on Saturday.

4. Bryan Batt signed his new book "Big, Easy Style: Creating Rooms You Love To Live In" at Bergdorf Goodman on Saturday in New York City.

5. Actress Kathy Griffin made Christmas cards with holiday shoppers at Westfield Culver City shopping mall Sunday in Culver City, Calif.

6. Scott Weiland performed songs from his Christmas album "Most Wonderful Time of the Year" at the City Winery on Saturday in New York City.

7. Designer Patricia Field attended her 2011 Rock & Shop Trunk Show at the Patricia Field Boutique on Sunday in New York City.

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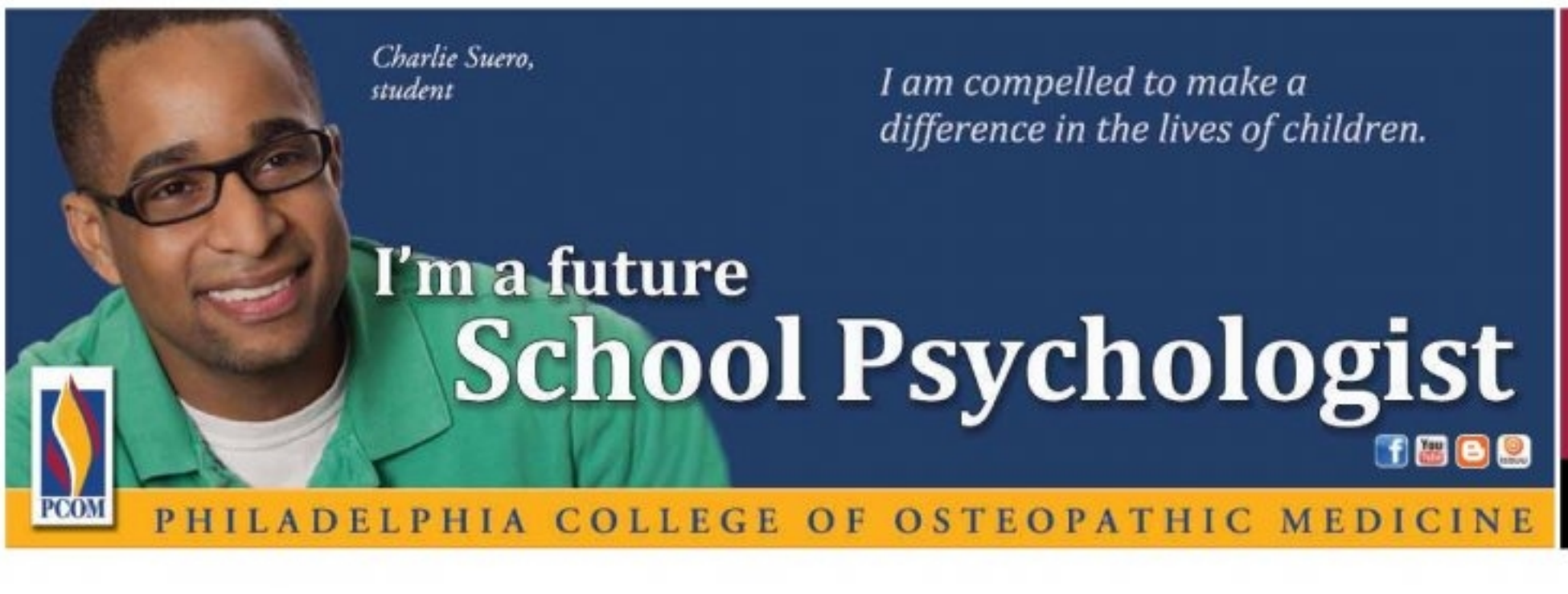
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▶ Newbern-Fletcher, right, and her husband J.S. seem to still find a spark in their relationship.

You and me could write a bad romance

Answer a series of questions about your partner and Yournovel.com will take the two of you out of your daily routine and put you in a wild fantasy

When a friend asked Kathy Newbern-Fletcher what people would be surprised to know about her, she had no idea where the answer would lead her.

"I said I had written a then-unpublished romance novel," she says, "and over lunch, one of my friends just said in passing, 'Wouldn't it be really fun if you could read about yourself in one of those books?'"

That day, Yournovel.com was conceived.

Flash-forward to more than 20 years later, and couples can answer 26 online questions about their relationship — her pet name, the car he drives, her favorite lingerie color — and Yournovel.com creators Newbern and husband J.S. Fletcher will put the details into one of their selected 28 different romance novels and personalize the love story. The books are priced between $40 and $100, with the choice to customize the front cover with a picture of the star couple.

Ranging "from mild to wild," the stories to choose from on Yournovel.com take the relationship out of its comfort zone and place the couples anywhere from an African safari to a sultry Tahitian adventure on the Caribbean.

Newbern-Fletcher says that despite the variations in names and details, the stories all have the same underlying message.

"Even though the books are fun and campy ... we also really like that they are delivering what we hope is the message ... you can have fame and fortune, but if you've lost love, you've lost everything."

SAM SWEENEY
letters@metro.us

So exactly how much romance?

Despite the sexy scenes in some of the more "wild" novels, customers try to heat up the action even further.

"We've had people say, 'Make mine X-rated, or triple X-rated,' and I have to be like, 'No, I can't go there,'" says Newbern-Fletcher.

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Global street style

Metro does some world traveling to suss out the best new looks on the grassroots level Here's a hint: Doc Martins are super cool again

MICHELLE BOBB-PARRIS

Danielle Hampson

What she's wearing: "I'm wearing Doc Martens boots, a shirt from Beyond Retro, a jacket from Zara, a Topshop jumpsuit and a Vivienne Westwood purse."
Her look: "I like to look after my appearance, and I try to keep up with the trends."
The one trend that she would banish from existence: "I'd get rid of Crocs and velour tracksuits. They both look dreadful."
MICHELLE BOBB-PARRIS

GIIA

Nunzio de Prete

What he's wearing: "I'm wearing Doc Marten shoes, Maison Martin Margiela jeans, a Cos jumper, a vintage jacket and an Idem scarf."
The one item of clothing that he'd wear everyday for the rest of his life: " I love to layer a gilet over the top of other clothes."
The one trend that he'd banish from existence: "Hello Kitty or any other cartoon that is made for the adult market." GIIA

Meghan Stafford Kelly

What she's wearing: "I'm wearing a Hermes scarf as a belt, Ralph Lauren Collection boots, antique Victorian gold cuffs and the rest is vintage."
Her style: "Old vintage with a modern twist."
The one item of clothing that every woman should have in her closet: "Scarves. They're a versatile and an elegant addition to any look."
The one item of clothing that she would save from her wardrobe: "My vintage Halston slip wedding dress. It's very wearable, and of course I'd keep it for sentimental reasons."
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myentertainment

TV watch list

CHARLES SYKES/BRAVO

▶ Kathy Griffin appears in her new comedy special, "Tired Hooker."

'Kathy Griffin: Tired Hooker'

SPECIAL. Maybe the comedian took some inspiration for the title of her current standup special from her own workload — Griffin's done four of these in the last year alone. **Premiere, 10 p.m., Bravo**

'Christmas at St. Olaf'

SPECIAL. The Minnesota college celebrates 100 years of its annual musical celebration of the holidays. **9 p.m., PBS**

'Lidia Celebrates America'

REALITY. The Italian cuisine queen celebrates the food and holiday traditions of immigrants that have made the dinner tables of America so eclectic — and so very delicious — in this four-part series. **Miniseries premiere, 8 p.m., PBS**

'SNL Presents: A Very Gilly Christmas'

SPECIAL. "Saturday Night Live" unwraps two hours of its best holiday sketches — Steve Martin! Alec Baldwin! — through the years. Kristen Wiig's mischievous schoolgirl Gilly presides over the festivities. **9 p.m., NBC**

AMBER RAY

MAN OF ACTION

His mission? To steal the limelight from Tom Cruise in the new 'Mission: Impossible' 'I don't know if I've managed to do that," says a modest Jeremy Renner

After Oscar nominations for the dramas "The Hurt Locker" and "The Town," actor Jeremy Renner did what any self-respecting Californian would do: Take roles where he could blow stuff up in big action movies. Besides this week's "Mission: Impossible —Ghost Protocol," opposite Tom Cruise, he's got next year's "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters," plays Hawkman in "The Avengers" and takes over for Matt Damon (as a new character) in "The Bourne Supremacy."

"Suddenly, the offers came streaming in," he says of his life after the Academy Award nods. "Having worked in the industry for a long time, I know that you need to take these as they come."

In the fourth "Mission: Impossible," he plays Brandt, an analyst for the Ministry of Defense who teams up with Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise).

"The action is ongoing, but I wanted my character to be credible," insists the actor. "I'm a big fan of thrillers from the 1970s. In 'French Connection,' if you don't have the slightest empathy for Gene Hackman, then you never want to sit through a 10-minute car chase."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Renner is all smiles for his career after Oscar recognition.

"Sometimes he came across like this super experienced guy, paying attention to every single thing happening on set. Other times, he would be like a teenager in an adult's body, ready to take on the craziest of stunts."

RENNER, ON CO-STAR TOM CRUISE

Renner also offers praise for Cruise, his producer and co-star. "He's 10 years older than me, and he works 72 hour days compared to my 20," he says. "Sometimes he came across like this super experienced guy, paying attention to every single thing happening on set. Other times, he would be like a teenager in an adult's body, ready to take on the craziest of stunts."

Like climbing up the highest tower in the world in Dubai?

"I wouldn't have been able to do the stunt myself," says Renner, who, despite his action movie cred, has his limits. "I'm scared of heights."

JEROME VERMELIN
METRO WORLD NEWS

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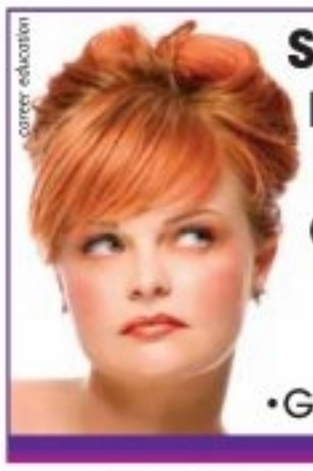

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mywellbeing

Prepare for landing

PHOTODISC

▶ Making sure your child is comfortable is key.

Flying can be no fun for kids who are prone to ear pain caused by pressure differences between the inside and outside of the eardrum. But you can make plane trips a little easier.

▶ Swallowing, chewing and yawning all help equalize pressure. Have your older kid chew gum, and breastfeed or give your baby a bottle.

▶ Give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen a half hour before landing, since this is when pressure differences make ears hurt the most.

▶ Book a nonstop flight if possible when planning your vacation, since multiple descents cause more strain on the ears. **RACHEL MORRIS FOR PARENTS MAGAZINE**

Parents
Parents brings moms and dads smart, fresh advice to help you raise healthy, happy kids. Check us out at Parents.com

DIY

Getting crafty this Christmas

Holiday crafting is not just a practical way of whiling away cold winter afternoons; it offers a nice excuse for parents to spend quality time with their kids, creating festive rituals that bond the family. Here is a project everyone will want to partake in. **EMMA E. FORREST**

Stained-glass windows

Ingredients:

2 oz soft, light brown sugar
2 oz butter, softened
1 small egg
4½ oz plain flour
½ oz cornflour
1 teaspoon all-spice
20 hard candies

You will need:

▶ A large-shaped cookie cutter
▶ A drinking straw
▶ A small round cutter, slightly bigger than the cookies

Directions:

1 Heat the oven to 350F. Grease and line a baking tray.

2 Beat the sugar and butter in a large bowl. Mix half the egg into the butter and sugar. Stir in the flour, cornflour and all-spice. Mix together really well.

3 Squeeze the mixture together to form a ball of dough. Roll out the dough until it's as thick as your pinky. Use the large cutter to cut out shapes. Lift them onto the tray with a spatula. Squeeze the scraps together and roll them out again. Cut out more cookies.

4 Make a hole in each cookie by pressing the straw through the dough, near the top of each one. Use the small, round cutter to cut a hole in the middle of each cookie.

5 Put a candy piece into the hole in the middle of each cookie. Bake for 12 minutes. Leave on the tray to cool, and then apply icing. Once the icing sets, tie a ribbon through the small hole and hang the cookie on your tree.

—From "Usborne Christmas Baking for Children," by Fiona Patchett, www.usborne.com

Charity

For the Bieber obsessed

High school freshmen Lizzie Halper & Ellie Wessinger just released their first self-published book, "Got Bieber Fever? A Fan's Guide," with all proceeds going to Pencils for Promise, a Bieber-supported organization that seeks to build schools in developing countries. The 148-page coffee table book contains never-before-seen photos by New York Times photographer Robert Caplin, who toured with Bieber for six months. **$18, www.amazon.com** **METRO/ME**

▶ Halper and Wessinger got to show the Biebs their creation this November.

ROBERT CAPLIN

ADVERTISEMENT

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Why is Tom's Wife Smiling?

And the simple trick he used to help him perform like a 20 year old! Without drugs, pumps, or embarrassing doctor visits.

By, Stefan Rothler; Freelance Health Writer;

If you're like Tom, you know how frustrating it is when you can't "Stand Up" for yourself. Especially in the bedroom! And even though your wife tells you "its okay"— she secretly wishes you weren't such "a softy". For your sake and hers.

Tom's Story:

Tom M. had a big problem. His love-life was "coming up short". And like a lot of men his age, he had a tough time "performing" in the bedroom.

But Tom's wife was kind. She reassured him with words like "it's no big deal"--- but it really was. So she urged him to get some help. He took her advice…

Tom searched the web for answers, and came up with nothing but scams. Everything he tried failed. He thought about asking his doctor about that well-known "little blue pill". But it was way too expensive (as much as $30.00 per tablet). Plus, it doesn't work for 32% of all men who try it. And according to its warning labels you could wind up deaf, blind, or even dead! It's just not worth the risk.

The Secret of the Adult Film Industry

And by age 60, you're left with a fraction of the HGH you used to have. The signs of aging become impossible to ignore... narrower shoulders and more weight around the middle... thinner skin that loses elasticity... creases and wrinkles... aching joints and brittle bones... all signs that your body is gradually breaking down.

Add to that, decreased desire and ability and a loss of muscle tone that leads to a dangerous loss of agility and balance. But none of this has to happen...

Secret of The Rich and Famous

As Tom continued his research, he came across something unusual. He read that male actors in the adult film industry use something called "Herbal Virility". Before filming, the actors would pop one of these tiny pills in their mouth--- so when the director yells "action"- there's always plenty of it!

It's been the secret of adult film producers for years! That's because instead of taking a full-hour for it to work, Herbal Virility starts giving you "solid, long-lasting results" almost immediately after you take it --- no waiting!

Tom was excited to try it. After all, Herbal Virility helped thousands of men get back their confidence in the bedroom. And since its all-natural Herbal Virility is a lot safer than drugs. There are no pumps to hassle with, no embarrassing doctor visits needed and it's surprisingly affordable. Plus, it's based on Nobel prize-winning research...

Here's How It Works:

In 1998, three scientists shared a Nobel Prize for discovering that the chemical compound nitric oxide (or NO) plays a vital role in widening your blood vessels so blood flows more freely... especially in the "intimate areas" of your body.

When you're young, nitric oxide flows abundantly through your body. Unfortunately, as you grow older, your NO production starts to diminish. As a result, so does your love life. That's why Herbal Virility is so important.

Just pop a Herbal Virility into your mouth. Its proprietary formulation has no bitter taste and dissolves quickly into your bloodstream.

Herbal Virility contains all 25 of the most potent natural male enhancement boosters on earth. It helps kick-start your body's natural ability to produce nitric oxide on its own. So you're ready for action when you want it --- and as often as you want it. You'll get a "big boost" of confidence in the bedroom. And your wife will be so excited she may wake up the neighbors!

Rave Reviews Coming in Everyday

Most men, who experience Herbal Virility's firm results, can't get enough of it. Here's what people are saying...

W. Pritchett II of Newport News, VA, tells us; "After I turned 52, I couldn't get it to work. I thought my fun was over. But now, thanks to Herbal Virility I can heat things up in the bedroom anytime I want to." Please send me another 6 month supply!"

Melissa M. of Key Largo, FL reports; "Herbal Virility saved our marriage! What a difference it made in my husband. He's like a new man! All I can say is WOW!".

Not Available in Stores

The demand for Herbal Virility has been overwhelming. And until now, there just wasn't enough of it to go around. That's why the makers of Herbal Virility are limiting its supply to newspaper and magazine readers only.

Herbal Virility is amazing. Men who try it can't seem to get enough. But to really understand why, you have to try it for yourself. That's why the makers of Herbal Virility asked us to "spread the word" by offering our readers a full-month supply, at a super-discounted, "readers only" price.

Try Herbal Virility Risk-Free...
Plus a 1 Year, Money-Back Guarantee

See for yourself. You have a whole year to decide. Here's our guarantee; "If Herbal Virility doesn't give you back your desire, your stamina --- and get you "interested" whenever you need it --- you won't have to pay a dime. You have a full year to make up your mind. Either you're absolutely thrilled with Herbal Virility… or you get back every red cent!

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FAST ACTION BONUS #1; Call today and receive a FREE 30 day supply of "Andro Active", the testosterone boosting pill that helps restore lost testosterone levels for more energy, muscle tone, focus, stamina and a whole lot more.

FAST ACTION BONUS #2; Get two FREE red-hot DVDs to help "motivate your performance."

The "Readers Only" price will be available for a limited time only. Please be sure to mention the name of this publication when calling this toll-free number: 1-800-471-5704

Tom Rides Again!

P.S... As for Tom, his love-life has never been better. His confidence has never been higher. And thanks to Herbal Virility, his marriage is the best it's been in years! See what all the fuss is about. Call Now: 1-800-471-5704.

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Letters

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We need our troops at home

RE: "IRAQ WAR ENDS, TROOPS COME HOME": It was good to see heavy "coming home from Iraq" coverage in Metro, unlike elsewhere. Metro wrote of troops at the Iraq border in Kuwait cheering that the last column made it without incident. If we are willing to ignore U.S. troops being shot at, we could leave Afghanistan in a month as well. **RICHARD KANE, CENTER CITY**

I'm sure everyone is glad that our troops are coming home from Iraq. However, we still have troops stationed in more than 100 countries — and are are building more bases overseas while closing bases at home. Our leaders tell us that our country is being protected by U.S. involvement in foreign conflicts. Why are they not concerned about protecting our borders? We must protect our country by bringing our troops home, building up our defenses at home and controlling our borders.
JANET MCCARTHY, VIA E-MAIL

Vote the little kings out now

If there was ever a time for term limits it is now. Our elected officials think they are kings for life. How else could they justify being bought and paid for by corporate America — with absolutely no interest in the American people? Let's vote out the career politician from sea to shining sea!
MIKE MILLER, VIA E-MAIL

Eight out of 10 not too bad?

I see that Newt has been soaring in polls among Christian conservatives. Are these the same people who would place the 10 Commandments at their courthouse door? If "Thou shalt not commit adultery" and "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife" are truly pinnacles of American law to be devoutly enforced, they why would they choose such a blatant violator as their champion?
CHARLIE CHACE, VIA E-MAIL

Why give Obama ultimate power?

The Democrat co-traitors say Obama's promise not to apply indefinite detention to American citizens in this country is enough for them to approve treason. Our hope and prayer is that the Supreme Court will do its duty and declare this treason as well as unconstitutional and throw them all in jail for attempting to overthrow democracy.
CHARLES COUCH, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Just because you're at a boisterous event doesn't mean you can't command the type of attention that you'd like. You'll find that whispering will have more impact than shouting.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If there is someone you know who could use a little help, you should yield to your charitable inclinations and pitch in. Your good deed will produce a huge harvest.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Trust your instincts regarding the outcome of events, because they're likely to be more accurate than your common sense. This time, things could be as good as you hope.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Speak up if you have something to say when a self-appointed person is fouling up the works. You're the one who'll know how to handle it without making that individual look bad.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Discovering that others are talking about you is no cause for alarm, because what they are saying would actually flatter you. Don't jump to conclusions.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Don't hesitate to let it be known that you must study any proposal brought to you, especially if a contract is involved. Take all the time you need to read in between the lines.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** There are some very strong indications that someone new could enter your life — if not today, then very soon. It'll be a person you'll like very much.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Getting involved in something creative in which you'll be using your hands as well as your mind will bring you much gratification. Don't hesitate to take on something new.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Don't be bashful about complimenting someone you've just met in front of others, and do let this person know how much you enjoy his or her company. She or he will be flattered.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Put your artistic talents to work during your spare time and beautify your surroundings instead of sitting around on the couch.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Don't turn down any invitation that gives you a chance to mix and meet with new, fun people. The more contacts you make, the more chances you'll have of meeting a truly nice friend.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Although they may come in increments, you'll have excellent chances for producing long-range benefits for yourself.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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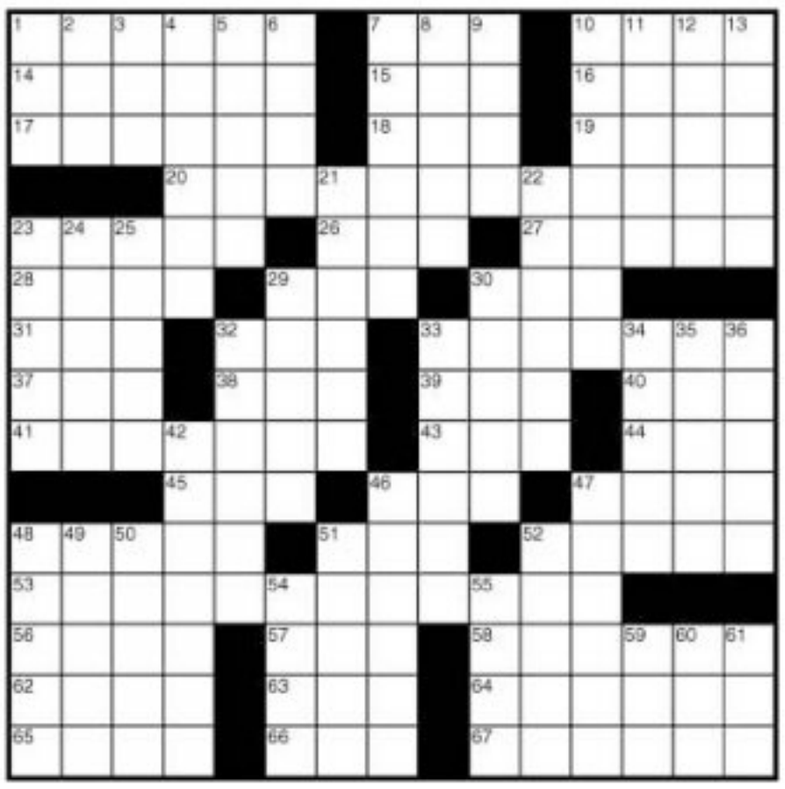
LETTERS@METRO.US



Across
1 Vampire's target
7 Biz rival
10 Goldfish
14 Draw squiggles
15 A Knute successor
16 "Typee" sequel
17 Return address
18 Toon pooch
19 Courts
20 Aerobic exercises(2 wds.)
23 North Dakota city
26 Genetic strand
27 Popped up
28 Burnoose wearer
29 Ostrich look-alike
30 Assist
31 King, in France
32 Move jauntily
33 Throb
37 Mdse. bill
38 Canape topper
39 Wolfed
40 Zero, in sports
41 Look closely
43 It's freezing!
44 Versatile vehicle
45 Go __ __ diet
46 Bluebottle
47 Paul Drake's creator
48 Parboil
51 Worthless coin
52 Elbow opposites
53 Classic car feature (2 wds.)
56 Fictional governess
57 Smokehouse hanger
58 Edge
62 Authorizes
63 Banjo cousin
64 Very tired
65 Toga party site
66 Glove sz.
67 Heavy hammer

Down
1 Gridiron stats
2 Weed whacker
3 Harry's sidekick
4 Chore (2 wds.)
5 Kayak owner, maybe
6 School period
7 Type of flour
8 Gladiator's place
9 Big __ theory
10 Fraidy-cats
11 It merged with BP
12 Black birds
13 Oater extras
21 Drive forward
22 Warden
23 Madame Curie
24 Socrates' forte
25 Gullible
29 Cash, casually
30 Film cowboy Gene __
32 Godfather portrayer
33 Baby food
34 Lapis lazuli color
35 Championship
36 "En garde" weapons
42 Most daring
46 Bubbled up
47 Dinner course
48 Ledge
49 More demure
50 Ventricle neighbor
51 Moccasin, maybe
52 Hillock
54 Baba au __
55 Subsides
59 Family man
60 Joule fraction
61 Deli bread

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

T	O	G	O	■	L	O	U	P	E	■	D	E	J	A
A	L	O	U	■	A	P	S	E	S	■	O	D	I	N
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■	■	■	■	A	L	L	A	Y	■	Y	U	L	■	■
B	R	A	S	S	E	S	■	L	I	N	S	E	E	D
R	A	G	T	A	G	■	M	E	E	K	■	R	A	E
I	D	E	S	■	A	V	A	I	L	■	F	I	S	T
E	I	N	■	S	T	E	P	■	D	E	I	C	E	R
F	I	A	N	C	E	E	■	R	E	L	E	A	S	E
■	■	■	■	A	R	S	■	C	E	D	A	R	■	■
P	L	E	B	E	■	I	L	E	■	N	I	C	E	R
R	U	B	B	E	R	N	E	C	K	■	E	L	M	O
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M	E	N	D	■	B	Y	R	O	N	■	T	E	T	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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holiday

Europe's best holiday markets

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Christmas carols and ice skating in London: The city of London becomes one sprawling market at Christmastime, with revelry on every corner — from singalong concerts at St. Martins-in-the-Fields to a medieval Christmas celebration and ice-skating at the Tower of London. Regents and Oxford streets' light displays put shoppers in the mood, and the historically minded can dine with Henry VIII and his new queen Catherine Howard at an authentic 1540 Christmas at Hampton Court Palace.

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Celebratory flavors at the Old Viennese Christmas Market: The Magic of Advent market at Vienna's sprawling Rathausplatz market is the epitome of Christmas. Wooden stalls offer handmade gifts, sweets, and the scent of roasting chestnuts. The city's heritage is also vibrantly alive at the Old Viennese Christmas Market, where choral music fills the air.

Dazzling lights at Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens: Millions of dazzling Christmas lights at Copenhagen's historic Tivoli Gardens illuminate Denmark's most popular Christmas destination, with ice-skating on the lake, parades, carolers, firework displays and, of course, Santa Claus. For this year's Russian theme, visitors explore a Russian city, starring a replica of St. Basil's Cathedral complete with onion domes. The Christmas market offers 70 stalls of local crafts and gifts.

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Strasbourg's Christmas market. Where Christmas fans shop.

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3

Good day, bad day

HAWKS

Hawk thrill
Saint Joseph's guard Langston Galloway was named Big 5 Player of the Week.

The sophomore scored 20 points, while dishing out six assists in the Hawks' 74-58 upset win over Villanova this past weekend in a game played on St. Joe's campus.

Nit wit
Penn State QB Matt McGloin may miss the team's Jan. 2 bowl game after suffering a concussion and seizure in a fight with a teammate.

McGloin hit his head in the locker room after a brief dust-up with wide receiver Curtis Drake.

Opinion

ANGELO CATALDI
THE VOICE OF THE PHILLY SPORTS FAN

STATUS QUO RULING THE EAGLES NEST

In the end, it was all just a big misunderstanding. The 2011 Eagles are really the Dream Team. Hey, you saw them destroy the Jets. They are every bit as dominant and talented and explosive as we imagined.

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They just needed a few months to blend their amazing skills. And so the spin begins. Soon, it won't even matter whether the Eagles make the playoffs. It'll be about next year — with Andy Reid back for his 14th season as coach and — ugh — maybe even Juan Castillo returning for an encore as defensive coordinator. The big winners of the 2011 season will be Andy Reid and his best buddy, Status Quo.

Reid is not great at managing the clock or overseeing the hurry-up offense, but he is a master at surviving. In fact, there is nothing Reid is better at than pulling his neck out of the noose and retaliating with a big win and then a barrage of clichés. After the Jets rout, Reid couldn't contain his appreciation for Mike Vick, Juan Castillo and the fans. Always, the fans.

Of course, these were the same fans he claims he didn't hear three weeks ago when they chanted "Fire Andy." Now that they're cheering again, his ears are back in working order. Just don't ask him a question about the team's still-precarious playoff position or his still-tenuous job status. And don't ask him the most important question, the one he absolutely refuses to answer: Why is a team with all of these talented players only 6-8 this season?

The Eagles have the top running back in the NFL, LeSean McCoy. They also have the top pass-rusher in football, Jason Babin. They have a dynamic quarterback, a troika of stud cornerbacks, a dominant defensive line, two exceptional wide receivers … and a 6-8 record.

The only thing the Jets victory proved this past Sunday was just how much the Eagles have underachieved this season. Yes, they are the Dream Team, in terms of pure talent, but it took Reid 12 games to employ their skills and only when there was no longer any pressure to contend for the Super Bowl. The demolition of the Jets only made losses to pitiful Arizona and lousy Seattle that much more unimaginable.

Quoted
Yes, they are the Dream Team, but it took Reid 12 games to employ their skills.

Bill Parcells has said many times that a team is what its record says it is, nothing more or less. Unlike Reid and his invisible bosses, the Giants legend was too busy winning Super Bowls to make excuses or to redefine reality to suit his purposes.

The Eagles, one of the most talented teams in the NFL, will not have a winning record this season. Isn't that really all that matters?

*– **Angelo Cataldi** is the host of 610 WIP's Morning Show, which airs weekdays 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.*

JoePa not for ruining weekends

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Paterno

Joe Paterno decided not to act after learning of a sexual assault against a child because he didn't want to ruin anybody's weekend. That's where we are in the horrific case at Penn State. Paterno waited because it was a Saturday.

There are many tentacles in this monster of a story, but the essence of it has never changed. This is the story of Joe Paterno, the moral compass of American sports who turned out to be a total fraud. It is the story of a man who valued the refuge of a weekend over the well-being of a child.

Just try to imagine for a moment the impact of aide Mike McQueary's eyewitness report, a sobbing description of former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky pinning a child to the wall of the shower room and producing rhythmic slapping sounds as their bodies met.

Not only did Paterno sit on the information for two days before reporting it to his bosses, but his grand jury testimony reveals that he actually found that decision perfectly reasonable. He offers the explanation without any sense of regret. In Paterno's kingdom, his decision was beyond challenge, even though it was cold and irrational.

Of course, now Paterno knows just how outrageous his thinking was, but it took a massive public outcry for him to receive the message, far too late to preserve his legacy. Joe Paterno, football legend, has vanished for good, But the memory of his insensitivity will live on forever.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rollins is too old and the Phillies' offense needs a jolt.

Love lost for aging Rollins

Jimmy Rollins handled his contract negotiations the way he approaches a lazy pop-up to second base. No need to hurry. He knew he was going to get there eventually — and he did.

Unfortunately, his sluggish style didn't serve the interests of his team very well because now it's too late to find another way to improve the fatal flaw in this 102-win ballclub, the offense. So what we'll be getting is a slightly less talented but still stellar pitching rotation (minus Roy Oswalt) and the same lineup that couldn't score a run in the deciding game of the NLDS.

The decision to retain Rollins was a popular move, but not nearly as popular as the team or the player believes. The fact is, there is a growing army of fans willing to see Rollins and his 33-year-old body leave town. I know. I've been taking their calls, in droves, for the past month on WIP.

There are two basic problems with Rollins staying. First, he plays a position that requires quicker reflexes than most have when they reach the back half of their 30s. And second, it gives the Phils an infield that is very old.

Rollins will always be a hero here because of his role in the 2008 championship, but his signing didn't improve their chances of winning another one.

Idle thoughts from Cataldi …

1 **Bad News Bears.** So now, after the devastation of the Phillies and Eagles seasons, we learn that Flyers captain Chris Pronger is out for the year with "severe concussion syndrome." Is it too late for Philadelphia sports fans to ask Santa for some long-overdue good luck in 2012?

2 **Nice role model.** Gary Schultz testified that he didn't think an adult man touching the genitals of a child was a crime. The former senior VP of Penn State said, under oath, that he didn't know the definition of sexual conduct. And this guy was in charge of the campus police for 17 years?

3 **Make a move!** Now that the new Sixers owners have bonded with the fans by slashing ticket prices, boiling Hip Hop and holding a free scrimmage at the Palestra, do you think they could start revising the roster? Somebody needs to tell president Rod Thorn that the lockout is over.

J-Roll still perfect fit with Phillies

Rollins signs new deal, should keep shortstop in red pinstripes through 2015 Turned down Brewers offer

The Phillies front office held their holiday party yesterday at Citizens Bank Park.

Before it got into full swing, however, they took time out to re-introduce Jimmy Rollins to the masses. The shortstop officially signed a three-year, $33 million deal to remain in Philadelphia.

The contract includes a vesting option for 2015 at $11 million. If not vested, it could be a club option at $8 million or a player option at $5 million, depending on different built-in performance escalators — all of them are easily attainable, according to Phillies GM Ruben Amaro, Jr.

Rollins had been seeking a five-year contract and admitted that he had one on the table from Milwaukee.

"There was definitely money I considered," Rollins said. "I can't really say that I didn't think it wouldn't happen here. You know the Phillies were going to get the last pull. I wasn't going to make a decision without letting Ruben and the Phillies know, 'Hey this is what we have, can we do something?' If that was the case, you know I would be in the Midwest wearing blue and gold right now."

The way his Phillies contract is structured, with the vesting option, the four-year deal actually averages out to more money.

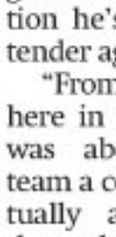
"It's pretty much a guaranteed four-year deal. Right, Rube?" Rollins joked.

As Amaro chuckled in agreement, Rollins was also quick to point out his allegiance to the only organization he's known since the tender age of 17.

"From the first day I got here in the big leagues, it was about making this team a contender and eventually a champion, and those things have been accomplished," Rollins said. "You know, the champion part not as often as I would like — but we're in contention every year."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Rollins and Amaro let the negotiations play out — and it worked out for everybody.



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Homes

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3 Bedrooms, Excellent condition
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Real Estate/Rent

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Apartments Available Now
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Studios one and two BRs.
Half off first month's rent.
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Feasterville
CROFTWOOD APTS

1 BR $899.00
Free Heat & Water
$99.00 Security Deposit!
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Satisfaction Guaranteed
215-355-3048

Miscellaneous

Store for Rent
SW Area on Woodland Ave
Call Artie
(215) 290-7081, (267) 240-7277

Rooms

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Vehicles

Miscellaneous

Car Remotes!

Car Chip Keys!
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Business Opportunities

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Miscellaneous

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www.appliancetone.com

Miscellaneous

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